IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method for modifying and testing a network protocol stack that includes a plurality of protocols, the method comprising:

executing a test of said network protocol stack using a processing system, the test modeling each protocol of said plurality of protocols of said protocol stack as separate objects, the test simulating communication between a plurality of devices using said network protocol stack;

receiving a command comprising code to modify one of said plurality of protocols in said protocol stack; and

performing said modification on said one of said plurality of protocols in said protocol stack while the test is executing, by changing said separate object corresponding to said one of said plurality of protocols in said protocol stack.

2. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1 wherein said command is received in interpreted code.

3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

determining said one of said plurality of protocols in said protocol stack to modify responsive to receiving said command.

4. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

determining whether said command is adding a message to said one of said plurality of protocols; and

adding said message to said one of said plurality of protocols.

5. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

determining whether said command is to remove a message from said one of said plurality of protocols; and

removing said message from said protocol.

6. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

determining whether said command is to modify an existing message in said one of said plurality of protocols;

removing said existing message from said one of said plurality of protocols; and

adding a new message to said one of said plurality of protocols including said existing message with modifications in said command.

7. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

determining whether said command is to modify a state machine of said one of said plurality of protocols; and

modifying said state machine of said one of said plurality of protocols responsive to said command.

8. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An apparatus for modifying and testing a network protocol stack that includes a plurality of protocols, the apparatus comprising:

means for executing a test of said network protocol stack, the test modeling each protocol of said plurality of protocols of said protocol stack as separate objects, the test simulating communication between a plurality of devices using said network protocol stack;

means for receiving a command comprising code to modify one of said plurality of protocols in said protocol stack; and

means for performing said modification on said one of said plurality of protocols in said protocol stack while the test is executing, by changing said separate object corresponding to said one of said plurality of protocols in said protocol stack.

9. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of claim 8 wherein said command is received in interpreted code.

10. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus of claim 8 further comprising:

means for determining said one of said plurality of protocols in said protocol stack to modify responsive to receiving said command.

11. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of claim 8 further comprising:

means for determining whether said command is adding a message to said one of said plurality of protocols;

means for adding said message to said one of said plurality of protocols.

12. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of claim 8 further comprising:

means for determining whether said command is to remove a message from said one of said plurality of protocols; and

means for removing said message from said protocol.

13. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of claim 8 further comprising:

means for determining whether said command is to modify an existing message in said one of said plurality of protocols;

means for removing said existing message from said one of said plurality of protocols; and

means for adding a new message to said one of said plurality of protocols including said existing message with modifications in said command.

14. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus of claim 8 further comprising:

means for determining whether said command is to modify a state machine of said one of said plurality of protocols; and

means for modifying said state machine of said one of said plurality of protocols responsive to said command.

15. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A computer readable medium carrying one or more instructions for modifying and testing a network protocol stack that includes a plurality of protocols, the one or more instructions including instructions which executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform:

executing a test of said network protocol stack, the test modeling each protocol of said plurality of protocols of said protocol stack as separate objects, the test simulating communication between a plurality of devices using said network protocol stack;

receiving a command comprising code to modify one of said plurality of protocols in said protocol stack; and

performing said modification on said one of said plurality of protocols in said protocol stack while the test is executing, by changing said separate object corresponding to said one of said plurality of protocols in said protocol stack.

16. (ORIGINAL) The medium of claim 15 wherein said command is received in interpreted code.

17. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The medium of claim 15 wherein said one or more instructions further include instructions which executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform:

determining said one of said plurality of protocols in said protocol stack to modify responsive to receiving said command.

18. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The medium of claim 15 wherein said one or more instructions further include instructions which executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform:

determining whether said command is adding a message to said one of said plurality of protocols; and

adding said message to said one of said plurality of protocols.

19. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The medium of claim 15 wherein said one or more instructions further include instructions which executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform:

determining whether said command is to remove a message from said one of said plurality of protocols; and

removing said message from said protocol.

20. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The medium of claim 15 wherein said one or more instructions further include instructions which executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform:

determining whether said command is to modify an existing message in said one of said plurality of protocols;

removing said existing message from said one of said plurality of protocols; and

adding a new message to said one of said plurality of protocols including said existing message with modifications in said command.

21. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The medium of claim 15 wherein said one or more instructions further include instructions which executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform:

determining whether said command is to modify a state machine of said one of said plurality of protocols; and

modifying said state machine of said one of said plurality of protocols responsive to said command.

22. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus for modifying and testing a network protocol stack that includes a plurality of protocols, the apparatus comprising:

a memory configured to store instructions;

a network connection device configured to provide connectivity to a network;

a central processing unit configured to execute instructions stored in the memory to initiate a test of said network protocol stack, the test simulating communication between a plurality of devices using said network protocol stack, by emulating at least some of the plurality of devices;

an input/output (I/O) device configured to receive a command to modify one of said plurality of protocols in said protocol stack; and

a central processing unit further configured to perform said modification on said one of said plurality of protocols in said protocol stack while the test is executing by changing a data structure corresponding to said one of said plurality of protocols in said protocol stack.

23. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of claim 22 wherein said command is received in interpreted code.

24. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus of claim 22 further comprising:

the central processing unit further configured to determine said one of said plurality of protocols in said stack to modify responsive to receiving said command.

25. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus of claim 22 further comprising:

the central processing unit further configured to determine whether said command is adding a message to said one of said plurality of protocols; and

the central processing unit further configured to add said message to said one of said plurality of protocols.

26. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus of claim 22 further comprising:

the central processing unit further configured to determine whether said command is to remove a message from said one of said plurality of protocols; and

the central processing unit further configured to remove said message from said protocol.

27. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus of claim 22 further comprising:

the central processing unit further configured to determine whether said command is to modify an existing message in said one of said plurality of protocols;

the central processing unit further configured to remove said existing message from said one of said plurality of protocols; and

the central processing unit further configured to add a new message to said one of said plurality of protocols including said existing message with modifications in said command.

28. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus of claim 22 further comprising:

the central processing unit further configured to determine whether said command is to modify a state machine of said one of said plurality of protocols; and

the central processing unit further configured to modify said state machine of said one of said plurality of protocols responsive to said command.

29. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 1 wherein said performing said modification while the test is executing performs the test absent recompilation of said network protocol stack or restart of the test.

30. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the central processing unit is configured to perform said modification while the test is executing absent recompilation of said network protocol stack or restart of the test.